In the claims: (clean copy as amended)

1. (Twice Amended) Chronic implant apparatus for decreasing pressure in a first portion of a cardiac structure of a patient comprising a shunt implanted in a puncture in a septum in the cardiac structure communicating with an area outside said first portion, whereby a volume of blood sufficient to reduce pressure in said first portion flows across said septum.

2. (Twice Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first portion comprises the left ventricle and said pressure is the end diastolic pressure in a patient heart, wherein said shunt is implanted in a septum defining the left ventricle and wherein the shunt communicates with the left ventricle, whereby a volume of blood is flows across the septum from the left ventricle to reduce the end diastolic pressure.

5. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for decreasing pressure in a left ventricle of a patient comprising a shunt implanted in a septum communicating with an area outside the left ventricle, whereby a volume of blood sufficient to reduce end diastolic pressure in a patient flows through the shunt, wherein the shunt comprises a semi-passive check-valve comprising a valve selectively the left ventricle, whereby a volume of blood is released from the left ventricle sufficient to reduce the end diastolic pressure.

10. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 9,wherein said tubular element is comprised of a biologically inert non-metallic material.

11. (Twice Amended) A method of decreasing pressure in a first portion of a vessel of the cardiac structure of a patient comprising the step of:

(a) puncturing a vessel wall between the first portion and another portion; and

(b) implanting a shunt communicating with an area outside said first portion,

wherein the first portion comprises the left ventricle and said pressure is the end diastolic pressure in a patient heart, and

wherein said shunt is implanted in a septum defining the left ventricle and communicates with the left ventricle,

whereby a volume of blood is released from the left ventricle sufficient to reduce the end diastolic pressure.

Please cancel claim 12